

ACCESSIBILITY ADVISORY COMMITTEE

January 26, 2006

2:00 P.M.



MINUTES

I. Welcome/Roll Call

The meeting was called to order at 2:06 pm.

COMMITTEE MEMBER	PRESENT	ABSENT	
		Excused	Unexcused
Eric Reed, Dist. 3, <i>Chairperson</i>		X	
Arne Schonberger, <i>Mayors Appointee</i>		X	
Olivia Chavez, Dist. 1, <i>Co-chairperson</i>	X		
Willie Padilla, Dist. 2	X		
Donald J. Seeley, Dist 4	X		
Fred Gromand, Dist. 5	X		
Martin Wagner, Dist. 6		X	
Enriqueta Natividad, Dist. 7	X		
Vacant, Dist. 8			
Bill Bennett, <i>ADA Coordinator</i>	X		
Ruby B. Ransom (<i>Mr. Reed's Assistant</i>)	X		
Elaine Hengen, <i>City Attorney</i>		X	
Jim Fraser, <i>Developmental Services</i>	X		
Jeff Belles, <i>General Services Director</i>		X	
James W. Peterson, <i>Sun Metro</i>	X		
Sergio Reyes, <i>Traffic Engineering</i>	X		

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A motion was made, seconded, and approved to accept the minutes of December 15, 2005.

III. DISCUSSION AND ACTION

A. Audible Traffic Control Devices (update.)

A map of the city showing the locations of the audible pedestrian signals was presented. The blue dots show intersections that are under construction or are done. Schuster and Oregon, Schuster and University, and Viscount and Westmoreland are under construction. Alameda and Boll, Washington and Paisano, Hunter and Phoenix, Lomaland and Rojas, Lomaland and Gateway West and East, and George Dieter and Trawood are complete. No complaints have been received on any of the units. Yarbrough and Pebble Hills and Yarbrough and Vista Del Sol are scheduled to start at the same time. The red dots are the ones to be completed by April 30th, 2006. The ones in downtown will not be installed until the CBDIII is complete. The green dots are the ones that will be scheduled. A total of 16 intersections have been evaluated for future installation. There was a meeting with Community Development, Streets, and myself about the installation rate. It was agreed that the units will be installed sooner than the April deadline, or there will be a possibility of losing the funding. TxDot has approved all the intersections for the audible signals, but not the ADA portion. Sergio Reyes will contact TxDot to verify approval of the ADA issues. Work is being done to make sure funding is not lost for the units. \$150,000 was spent for the units and engineering design. A motion was made, seconded, and approved to have the Washington and Paisano audible intersection ribbon cutting on March 29, 2006, at 11:00 a.m.

- B. Sensitivity Training for Council Members.** The training was rescheduled for March 23, 2006, because the Urban Land Institute came to the city to give a presentation on smart growth and urban planning. The first two days are for information gathering purposes. The third meeting will be on January 27, 2006 and the team will present recommendations for smart design for El Paso. The training for the City Council will be conducted from 9:00 on the second floor in City Council Chambers. The Mayor and Council and Department heads will be present. Nametags will be prepared for the committee members.

C. Establish an Accessibility Construction Taskforce.

This item was placed on the agenda because there was a certificate of occupancy issued by Building Services and there were accessibility issues on the building. The State or a Registered Accessibility Specialist are the ones that enforce the Texas Accessibility Standards. The purpose is to establish a Taskforce made up of Developmental Services, Contractors, Builders Association, Members of the Accessibility Advisory Committee, to discuss how the inspection process can be done without holding up occupancy of the building and also ensuring accessibility without violations of the standards. The owner of the building is responsible for getting the inspection done by the state. The building could be occupied up to two years with violations of the state law. On Municipal buildings the contractor will not get the retainage until all violations are corrected. A motion was made and seconded to establish a task force. More discussion was held on the issue. The motion failed. A motion was made, seconded, and approved to put the item back on the agenda for next meeting for more information.

D. Zoo Expansion Progress and Installations.

Scott Gilliland from the Zoo was supposed to be present for the meeting. Expansions have not been started. They are in the planning stage. The zoo does have an elephant that can be felt and it has been successful. The zoo is in the process of getting Braille signage for the exhibit, and is going to install more accessible exhibits for the other animals. This item will be carried over so that Mr. Gilliland can address the issues.

E. Subcommittee reports for Goals and Objectives.

Transition Plan for the City. All departments are supposed to be working on their policies and procedures. Several of the departments have given information on what has been done. There will be a meeting in February to see the progress being made and start collecting what has been done to compile the information in a book. It was suggested that this item only be put on when information is received. Starting next month there should be information from each department being turned in and the reports will be made to the committee.

F. Formal complaints regarding ADA/Accessibility Compliance.

The complaint against Elmer's restaurant was discussed.

No formal complaints were received.

A complaint was called in about some apartments in North East that does not have an accessible route throughout the apartment complex. The apartment owners will be notified.

E. Plan Reviews

- a. Public Access Facilities.** The plans for the Cinemark Theater that is being constructed were presented.
- b. Municipal Projects.** Plans for the Ysleta library renovation and expansion were presented.

F. Next Meeting Agenda, Date and Location

The AAC meeting will be on February 23, 2006, at 2:00 p.m. The floor will be announced.

IV. ANNOUNCEMENTS

The Accessibility Office is being moved to the fourth floor to an office.

The Urban Land Institute is meeting is being held and there is a mobility meeting being held tonight at Mission Valley Command Center.

V. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 3:50 p.m.

Eric Reed, Chairperson

William Bennett, Accessibility Coordinator